

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 809

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John C. "Junior" Helton of Deason.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John C. "Junior" Helton; and

WHEREAS, Junior Helton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on August 21, 1925 to the late John William and Virgie Lee Cook Helton, Mr. Helton was raised on two different share-cropping farms near Wheel; his family relocated to the Deason community of Bedford County during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, Junior Helton was drafted and inducted into the United States Army; while bravely serving his country, he was captured by the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge and held prisoner of war for eight and one-half months in the German prison camp, Stalag 9B; and

WHEREAS, upon being discharged from the Army, Mr. Helton worked assiduously to learn welding and auto mechanics; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, he opened Helton's Garage, which he operated along with his brother, Haggard Helton, who predeceased him, for forty-one successful years; together they earned the respect of their customers and the community alike for the exemplary quality of their work; and

WHEREAS, an industrious gentleman, Junior Helton became a commercial chicken farmer in 1958, and had been recently honored by Tyson Foods for his fiftieth year of chicken production; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, he entered local politics with a desire to improve the school system and was elected to the Bedford County Court, now Bedford County Commission, a position in which he served with acumen and alacrity for thirty remarkable years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Helton was instrumental in securing the bond issued to build the Cascade School after the Bell Buckle School burned in 1972; also, while holding office, he performed 243 wedding ceremonies as a Justice of the Peace; and

WHEREAS, Junior Helton lent his professional talents as a member of the Bedford County Hospital Board for fourteen years, and he was active in Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, he was a lifelong member of the Ransom United Methodist Church in Deason, which he served faithfully; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Helton enjoyed the great outdoors, particularly fishing and hunting; those who knew him best praised him for his strong sense of community and work ethic, in addition to his up-beat sense of humor; and

WHEREAS, Junior Helton was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of thirty-nine years, Louise Helton, who predeceased him in 1990, and was the proud father of Barbara Burchett, married to Glenn, Ronnie Helton, married to Donna, and Jennifer Black, married to Patrick; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his eleven grandchildren, Ryan Blake Helton, Randy Kyle Helton, Jordan Andrew Burchett, Logan Mitchell Burchett, Savannah Glyn Burchett, Elliot William Black, Calvin Patrick Black, Henry Truman Black, Ary Lee Black, Kaylyn Melody Attig, and Kallie Danae Attig; and

WHEREAS, he is also survived by his three brothers and sisters-in-law, Douglas and Sue Helton, Glenn and June Helton, and Ernest and Martha Helton; a sister, Beatrice Crowell; and close family friend, Marie Creson; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and brother, Junior Helton was preceded in death by his brother, Samuel Helton, and a sister, Dorothy Harris; and

WHEREAS, Junior Helton leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John C. "Junior" Helton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Helton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.